

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 JAN 2006

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH OFFICE
(Supplementary Page) Intern. File No. PCT/EP2004/006509

1). The following documents are cited:

D1: "Wireless transmission of power and information for cableless linear motor drive" (2000)
D2: US2002185358
D3: US6118245
D4: DE9321402U

2). The independent device Claims 1 and 29 both relate to the control of a linear drive having a setpoint interface for the transmission of data. These claims do not describe counterparts that are related to one another since the linear motor is part of the machine, and they also do not constitute alternative design approaches for the intended object of signal transmission. Therefore, it is suggested to file a single independent claim with associated subclaims so as to satisfy Art. 6 PCT.

3). Document D1, which is considered the most proximate related art, discloses

- a linear motor and its progressive movement or movement control, in particular for modular conveyance systems having straight and curved path sections forming a path, having at least one secondary component, which is supplied via an energy and data transmission interface that includes parts of the control; and having at least one primary component having field-generating coils in [the form of] concentrated or overlapping windings, which are arranged next to each other along a predefined path (Fig. 1 and 2, page 26, column 2: "Tables I, II";
- the secondary component having at least one permanent magnet and a signal-processing device having a progressive movement or movement controller (Fig. 6:

"data transmission" and "pole of permanent magnet"), which

- generates at least one setpoint relevant with respect to the triggering of the coils (Fig. 11: "positioning response"), the setpoint value being supplied as variable used for the commutation via a setpoint interface, by the secondary component of a coil controller which is stationary relative to the primary component (Fig. 9: "data coupler"), and
- means for the rigid support of the secondary component are provided, which guide the secondary component along the predefined path (Fig. 10, page 25, column 2): "linear bearing mechanism" and "driven simultaneously on the common path".

- 4) D1 discloses all technical features of Claim 1, which is therefore is not novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).
- 5) The linear motor in D1 also ascertains setpoints for its progressive movement or movement control, non-contacting data transmission being provided via interfaces, Fig. 1, 2, 4 and 9, while the sliding carriage is kept on its track, Fig. 10. The Claims 2 - 28 are therefore not novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).
- 6) The literature cited in D1 and the company names mentioned there (page 21, column 1: "Regarding the wireless ... by the authors" and page 27: "References") it can be gathered that the linear motor is intended for an automation system. Since the linear motor in Figure 10 is a core part of this system, the machine Claim 29 is not novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).
- 7) A manufacturing machine having the linear motor described in D1 will obviously consist of a plurality of partial motors so as to form a desired path, a processor-

controlled network providing the required communication and synchronization, as described in D2, Fig. 2, 3, and 9, paragraph [0005] and [0059]. Therefore, the Claims 30-42 are not inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 8) At present it cannot be discerned which portion of the application could form the basis for a new claim satisfying Art. 33(3) PCT. If the applicant should still regard any individual subject matter as patentable, then an independent claim should be filed, which is directed to this subject matter and is drafted in accordance with PCT Rule 6. The response letter should clarify, on the one hand, the difference between the subject matter of the new claim and the prior art and, on the other hand, the significance of this difference.
- 9) When filing amended claims, the applicant should simultaneously adapt the specification to the amended claims. When revising the application, in particular the stated objective or the advantages of the invention, one should make sure that no matter is added that goes beyond the content of the application as originally filed (Article 34(2) (b) PCT).
- 10) To facilitate the examination of amended application documents with respect to Article 34(2)b) PCT, with respect to the amendments made, regardless of whether these are additions, substitutions or deletions, the applicant is requested to clearly indicate the passages in the originally filed application that support these amendments (see also Rule 66.8 a) PCT).

If desired, these passages can be indicated by hand on copies of the respective parts of the original application.

11) Documents D1 and D2 should be mentioned in the description, Rule 5.1(a) (ii) PCT.